



## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, marine & freshwater pollution by plastics, promoting technical development and professional competency, & to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals. ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation & Observer Status at the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

### ISCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members of the Executive Committee who act as the INTERIM EXECUTIVE (Acting in lieu of President, and as Members of SECRETARIAT (Core Management Team)

- Mr John McMurtrie, VP and Editor (UK)
- Ms Mary Ann Dagleish, VP M'ship (USA)
- Mr John Wordrop (Australia)

Other Members of Executive Committee who also act as members of the SECRETARIAT

- Captain Bill Boyle (UK)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Michael Watson (UK)

Other Membrs of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Mr Kerem Kemerli (Turkiye)
- Mr Dan Sheehan (USA)
- Mr Matthew Sommerville (UK)
- Mr Neil Marson (UK)
- Ms Helena Rowland (USA)
- Dr Larissa Montas (USA)
- Capt. D C Sekhar (India)
- Dr Mervyn Fingas (Canada)
- Ms Jane Delgado (USA)

- Mr Carlos Sagrera (Panama)
- Mr Ed Levine (USA)
- Mr Rupert Bravery (UK)

### COUNCIL (NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES)

- Mr John Wardrop (Australia)
- Mr Elkhan Mamedov (Azerbaijan)
- Dr Merv Fingas (Canada)
- Captain D. C. Sekhar (India)
- Mr Uri Philippin (Israel)
- Mr Sanjay Gandhi (Kenya)
- Mr Dennis van der Veen (Netherlands)
- Mr Carlos Sagrera (Panama)
- Mrs Fatima B. Shaik (South Africa)
- Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri (UAE)
- Mr Flavio P. de Andrade (Brazil)
- Mr Kerem Kemerli (Turkiye)

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC)



The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) addresses environmental issues under IMO's remit. This includes the control and prevention of ship-source pollution covered by the MARPOL treaty, including oil, chemicals carried in bulk, sewage, garbage and emissions from ships, including air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Other matters covered include ballast water management, anti-fouling systems, ship recycling, pollution preparedness and response, and identification of special areas and particularly sensitive sea areas.

Next MEPC Meeting - 81st Session / 18 - 22 March <https://www.imo.org/en/>

### APRIL 2024 MEETING OF THE IOPC FUNDS' GOVERNING BODIES

The invitation and agenda have now been issued for the next sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, which will be held in person at the IMO Headquarters building from 29 April to 1 May 2024 (IOPC/2024/Circ.3).

During this meeting, it will be possible for additional members of delegations to follow the meeting remotely via the hybrid meeting service offered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). However, anyone choosing to use this service will not be able to actively participate in the sessions.

IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

## ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

Carlos Sagrera Latin America (Spanish speaking)  
Matthew Sommerville UK London  
John Noble UK London & South'ton  
Flavio P. de Andrade Brazil

## MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

[Benefits of Membership](#)

[Online Membership Application Form](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ISCO  
DISCUSSION GROUP ON LINKED-IN

 More than 6,000 polluted sites  
fester across Amazonian countries Click on  
the link below –

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/>

ISCO'S FACEBOOK GROUP 

Click on the link -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388528312842431>

WHATSAPP GROUP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES  
& APPRENTICES

Here is the link for joining this group –

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KMxdW7IEal79namyNibVqg>

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING  
PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION Professional  
recognition is a visible mark of quality,  
competence and commitment, and can give  
you a significant advantage in today's  
competitive environment. All who have the  
relevant qualifications and the required level  
of experience can apply for Professional  
Membership of ISCO. The organization offers  
independent validation and integrity. Each  
grade of membership reflects an individual's  
professional training, experience and  
qualifications. You can apply for MEMBERSHIP  
(MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)  
About Professional Membership

[Professional Membership Application Form](#)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

### UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY A CHANCE TO FORGE A "SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"

The Assembly will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 February to 1 March 2024. Heads of States and more than 5,000 representatives from government, civil society and the private sector are expected to focus on solutions to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. UNEP / [Read more](#)

### NEW EU AGREEMENT ON MEASURES TO PREVENT POLLUTION FROM SHIPS IS GOOD NEWS

The EU's Directive on pollution from ships and the introduction of sanctions for illegal pollution are to be revised. It is part of the Commission's overall plan for sustainable shipping. The overarching goal is zero emissions, zero pollution, and zero accidents.

The Council and the European Parliament have now agreed to adapt the directive to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). At the same time, the directive's scope is expanded to include more types of polluting substances discharged into the sea, such as wastewater and waste. Hellenic Shipping News / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

ISCO is continuing to make good progress towards the completion of its transition process and updated information will soon be released.

## REGIONAL NEWS

The latest News and Press Releases collated from websites of Regional Organisations on ISCO's checking list. To add a website to this list please send the link to [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### THE BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN FUND GRANTS EUR 1 MILLION TO 10 NEW PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE BALTIC SEA

February 21 - Many of the new projects funded by the Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund (BSAP Fund) have a special focus on marine biodiversity. With Sweden's latest contribution of SEK 4.5 million, the BSAP Fund continues to support the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Total funding from the latest BSAP Fund call for proposals amounts to EUR 1 million, which will be distributed to 10 approved projects in Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Poland. The new projects focus on forestry, nutrient discharge, hazardous substances and sea-based activities. The majority of the new projects, six out of ten, will contribute positively to biodiversity. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

## LIST OF QUALIFIED COMPANIES AS PER MEMAC ENDORSEMENT FOR THE ROPME SEA AREA

The following List has been prepared in accordance with the Protocol Concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, 1978 Article III/3-(a: ii, iii), e and f.

All the listed companies have passed MEMAC Auditing System to serve ROPME Region Member States, covering all the emergency subjects, salvage and wreck removal. MEMAC / [Look at the list, which includes several ISCO Members](#)

## REMPEC - MEETING WITH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

February 19 - On Friday, 16th February 2024, a meeting was held with several Diplomatic Representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The purpose was to provide them with an overview of the Programme of Work of REMPEC for the

biennium 2024-2025. It was also an opportunity to enhance visibility of the Centre's activities and to foster a healthy dialogue with the Contracting Parties. <https://www.rempec.org/en/>



## ADRIATIC - ADRIEX 2024



Tabletop Exercise aimed at testing the Adriatic marine pollution incident contingency plan (ADRIEX 2024)

<https://www.rempec.org/en/events/rempec-events/adriex-2024>

Mar 05, 2024 08:30 AM to Mar 07, 2024 01:00 PM, Bar, Montenegro

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**FREE ADVERTISEMENT**  
Corporate Members can place a free website-linked ad here. Contact Mike Watson for details  
[spillcontrol@mwadigital.com](mailto:spillcontrol@mwadigital.com)

**FASTANK**® The World's Leading Portable Containment Tanks  
**FASTANK 1/3/5**  
Successfully serving our industry and environment for 40+ years  
[www.fastank.com](http://www.fastank.com)  
[info@fastank.com](mailto:info@fastank.com)

**RISK MITIGATION  
READINESS RESPONSE**  
**CTEH**  
CLICK HERE to see what we can do for you

### AUSTRALIA: NATIONAL PLAN TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

The online course Introduction to pollution response consists of four modules:

- The National Plan
- Health and safety in an oil spill
- Introduction to oil spills
- Introduction to chemical spills.

These modules are available to everyone. There is no cost or timeframe for completion. It is recommended that participants attending any AMSA National Plan training complete these four modules. The modules should take approximately four hours in total. Modules can be accessed from the AMSA Learning Centre. A certificate of completion will be forwarded once you have successfully completed the modules. AMSA / [Read more](#)

### BRAZIL: IBAMA'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY IS HELD AT THE INSTITUTE'S HEADQUARTERS

February 22 - The ceremony of Ibama's 35th anniversary was held at the Institute's headquarters, in Brasília (DF), this Thursday (22), with the presence of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, the executive secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA), João Paulo Capobianco, the top leaders of the municipalities linked to the MMA, the president of the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), the director of the Brazilian Forest Service, Garo Batmanian, and the executive director of the National Association of



**PLAN**  
Tactical Response Planning

**PROTECT**  
Monitoring and Plan Improvement

**PREPARE**  
Training, Drills and Exercises

**RESPOND**  
On Land and Sea

Marine Pollution Control  
+1 (313) 849-2333 - 24/hour  
www.MarinePollutionControl.com

MPC IS OSRO #003

Environmental Specialist Career Servers and PECMA (Ascema), Lindalva Ferreira, as well as the former president of Ibama, Roberto Messias Franco, authorities and employees of the institutions.



*Photo: President of Ibama, Rodrigo Agostinho*

IBAMA: [Read more](#)

### LESTER ASSET MANAGEMENT

#### ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF CANADA'S FIRST BIODIVERSITY FUND

February 20 - [Lester Asset Management](#) (LAM) is pleased to announce that it has launched Canada's first biodiversity fund. The objective of the Fund is to grow capital by investing in global publicly traded companies that will benefit from powerful long-term trends related to halting and reversing nature loss, protecting and improving the environment, promoting sustainability, and addressing related issues such as water and food security. Yahoo Finance / [Read more](#)

#### EGYPT: THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT RECEIVES THE RECENTLY-DEVELOPED “BLUE ECONOMY ROADMAP FOR ADVANCING MARINE AND COASTAL ECO-PRACTICES IN EGYPT” FROM CEDARE TEAM AND EXPERTS



February 15 - The Ministry of Environment receives the recently-developed “Blue Economy Roadmap for Advancing Marine and Coastal Eco-Practices in Egypt” from CEDARE team and experts during the celebration of launching the report, in presence of the representative of the European Commission and the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme. CEDARE / [Read more](#)

#### JAMAICA: SUPPORTING OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS

February 21 - Oil spill preparedness training is underway at a national workshop in Kingston, Jamaica (19-21 February) to help build capacity and test response systems so that necessary improvements to Jamaica's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) can be identified and implemented.

The workshop is being delivered by a team from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) and IMO consultants, and brings together participants to discuss the impacts of oil pollution and its effect



on the marine environment, the need for rapid decision-making, and the interface between national groups/agencies with other countries and the international community.

The activity is being delivered through IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), in collaboration with the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, through RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.

Hosted by the Government of Curaçao, and with activities largely funded by IMO, UNEP and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe assists countries to implement international conventions created to reduce pollution from ships. IMO / [Read more](#)

### **KAZAKHSTAN: ON THE PATH TO A "GREEN" FUTURE: VISIT TO KAZAKHSTAN OF CEO AND CHAIRPERSON, THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**



February 19 – From 16 to 18 February, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), paid his first official visit to Kazakhstan.

During the visit, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez met with Katarzyna Wawiernia, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kazakhstan, Zulfiya Suleimenova, Advisor to the President - Special Representative of the President of Kazakhstan on International Environmental Cooperation, and Yerlan Nysanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan and discussed the strategic partnership aspects of UNDP initiatives in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable energy and climate change. UNDP / [Read more](#)

### **NEPAL: UN AWARD FOR NEPAL'S TIGER RANGE RESTORATION SPURS EUPHORIA AMID CHALLENGES**

February 15 - Launched in 2004, the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) initiative, which led to the restoration of 66,800 hectares (165,000 acres) of forest and nearly tripling of the endangered Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) population, has been honored as one of seven U.N. World Restoration Flagships by the U.N. Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-30) program jointly led by the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization

When it was conceptualized two decades ago, TAL's aim was to allow space for the movement of tigers over a larger landscape, beyond source populations within protected areas. It also represented a shift from a protected-area-based conservation approach to a broader one transcending the boundaries of not just protected areas but also the two countries. As the strategy took a bigger shape, the socioeconomic well-being of the people, which was linked to tourism and access to resources, also became a priority. Mongabay / [Read more](#)



### **NORWAY: AGR EXTENDS WELL CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EQUINOR**

February 21 - We're glad to announce we have signed a contract extension with Equinor for the provision of blowout and well control studies on the Norwegian continental shelf (NCS).

"The contract reinforces a long-standing collaboration with the largest operator on the NCS. In fact, we have conducted more than 250 studies for Equinor since 1991, and we look forward to building on this experience and know-how over the next couple of years," says Morten Haug Emilsen, AGR's manager for well control.

Within the framework of the new two-year agreement, AGR will offer services such as blowout contingency planning, well control emergency response, casing magnetization service, and general transient flow analyses. AGR / [Read more](#)

## SRI LANKA NABS OIL POLLUTING TANKER USING SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE

February 21 -The Marine Environment Protection Authority of Sri Lanka is touting its success at nabbing an “unauthorized oil release” as part of a sophisticated new satellite surveillance system it began testing with support from France. According to the statement released by the authority on social media, it was the first successful case although they have already had more than 100 detection reports from the system.

The Global Crest, a 12,900 dwt crude oil tanker registered in Panama was in Sri Lanka’s anchorage on February 3. The vessel was repositioning to the anchorage near Colombo when on February 4 the initiative funded by the French government detected a large oil slick. The MEPA reports the stain was confirmed in satellite images nearly seven miles in length and spread over one square kilometer (0.3 sq. miles). The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## USA: NOAA OR&R WEEKLY REPORT

February 20 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news from NOAA On February 16,



### [2024-2028 Office of Response and Restoration Strategic Plan Released](#)

The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) released its [Strategic Plan](#) for 2024-2028.

### [Unveiling an ERMA Update: New Tools, Improved Layout, and More](#)

NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration released a new version of the [Environmental Response Management Application](#) (ERMA). ERMA is a web-based mapping application used by environmental responders and natural resource decision-makers. It serves as the Common Operational Picture (COP) for NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as other state and federal agencies, during environmental disaster response and cleanup.

### [OR&R Exhibits at 12th Annual Thunder Bay International Film Festival](#)

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary held its twelfth annual International Film Festival, showcasing ocean and Great Lakes films from around the world. On January 26-27, NOAA’s Marine Debris Program’s Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, Haley Dalian, exhibited at the festival to engage with the public and filmmakers about marine debris in the region.

### [OR&R Participates in St. Petersburg Science Festival](#)

On February 9-10, NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration participated in the two-day [St. Petersburg Science Festival](#)([link is external](#)) in St. Petersburg, Florida.



## USA: NOAA AWARDS FIRST ROUND OF BLUE-TECH ACCELERATOR GRANTS



*Above: NOAA has had considerable success using advanced technology for ocean data collection - in the case above, an unmanned drone boat fitted for surveying (NOAA file image)*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

February 20 - The U.S. Department of Commerce has released a new round of funding to blue technology accelerators in order to help kickstart ocean sensing and ocean data innovation.

NOAA's Ocean-based Climate Resilience Accelerator program will invest in organizations that support early to mid-stage blue tech businesses, with the goal of bringing new products to market. Given its mission, NOAA is interested in ocean sensing technology, with a particular emphasis on climate-relevant ocean data. *The Maritime Executive* / [Read more](#)

### VIRGIN ISLANDS: DESK DRILL TESTS OIL-SPILL RESPONSE

February 21 - What would happen in the event of a major marine disaster requiring a search-and-rescue response and an oil spill clean-up in the territory's waters?

That question was posed to 22 public officers and other partners who attended a recent training and tabletop exercise designed to test and improve the Virgin Islands Oil Spill Contingency Plan, according to government.

During the drill, responders worked together to talk through how they would coordinate and execute a response to a marine pollution event, according to Department of Disaster Management Director Jasen Penn. *BVI Beacon* / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### ITOPF WELCOMES MARTA PANERO AS TECHNICAL ADVISER



ITOPF welcomes Marta Panero as a Technical Adviser to its Americas team.

Marta joined the company in January 2024 and holds a BSc in Marine Biology (University of Exeter and James Cook university) and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Marine Ecology and Conservation at James Cook University, Australia.

Prior to joining ITOPF, Marta worked for the NGO CoralWatch at the University of Queensland, focusing on environmental education and science communication.

With a background on coral bleaching at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and collaboration in various conservation projects in remote locations in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Cuba, Marta brings a comprehensive skill set to ITOPF. Her primary area of expertise lies in reef and temperate ecosystem research, monitoring, scientific diving, marine habitat restoration and environmental education. *ITOPF* / [Read more](#)

### ISCO MEMBER OSRL HAS NEW AUSTRALIAN TEAM STAFF MEMBER - OSM PROJECT

Trevor Gilbert has recently been appointed to the position of Lead - Operational & Scientific Monitoring in OSRLs Australian Perth Office.

Operational and Scientific Monitoring Plans (OSMPs) are a key component of the environmental management document framework and response arrangements for offshore petroleum activities in Australian waters. OSMPs are the principle tool for determining the extent, severity and persistence of environmental impacts from a hydrocarbon spill and resultant recovery and remediation activities. Trevor will lead the implementation phase of the joint industry shared services arrangement on behalf of the OSRL members in Australia.

Trevor is a Certified Chemist, HAZMAT advisor and seasoned maritime and environmental professional consultant with an extensive track record of 30 years in the strategic and operational management of maritime incidents with the Australian Federal and State Government agencies and the private consulting industry. He is a recognised marine pollution impact assessor and environmental forensic professional and has provided incident management, scientific, environmental advice in over 40 major maritime accidents, groundings and marine spill incidents, including Australia's largest oil spill incident the Montara oil well blowout. He has responded to incidents across Asia to the Middle East, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, as well as numerous small vessel groundings and incidents across Australia and Pacific Islands.



### A COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR CANADA



*This is part of a weekly column which provides the references and abstracts of new peer-reviewed scientific publications on oil spills. These references are selected on the basis of those papers that provide new insights into the fate, effects and control of oil spills. Readers may choose to obtain the full publications and to do so, one of three methods is suggested; contact your library, search the internet with the DOI (digital object identifier) provided, or search the internet for the exact title. These are given in the order of likely success in obtaining the article. Merv Fingas, ISCO Colleague.*

#### **43. Simulating productivity changes of epipelagic, mesopelagic, and bathypelagic taxa using a depth-resolved, end-to-end food web model for the oceanic Gulf of Mexico**

Calhoun-Grosch S., Ruzicka J.J., Robinson K.L., Wang V.H., Sutton T., Ainsworth C., Hernandez F.  
(2024) *Ecological Modelling*, 489, art. no. 110623,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2024.110623

**ABSTRACT:** Open-ocean and deep-sea ecosystems can be difficult to model due to the challenges of incorporating important dynamics such as diel vertical migration and particle sinking, as well as the absence of long-term datasets for deep-sea taxa abundance, distribution, and physiological parameters. The data collection that followed the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill provided the unique opportunity to model the oceanic Gulf of Mexico in a way that was not previously possible. Using new biomass datasets, we developed a depth-resolved food web model to better understand the trophic dynamics of the oceanic Gulf of Mexico. The model tracks vertical energy transfer in the water column between three depth zones: the epipelagic (0–200 m), mesopelagic (200–1000 m) and bathypelagic (>1000 m). This functionality allows us to demonstrate how changes in the biomass of specific functional groups, such as large jellyfish, non-copepod mesozooplankton, decapods, and strongly migrating mesopelagic fishes affect the food web within each depth zone. Non-copepod mesozooplankton and euphausiids were shown to have greater importance in energy transfer, particularly in meso- and bathypelagic depth zones, than other functional groups. Increasing large jellyfish biomass by 25 % resulted in decreases in biomass of most of the other forage functional groups, particularly mesopelagic fishes and small gelatinous carnivores, two groups that actively compete with and are consumed by large jellyfish. A simulated decrease in strongly migrating mesopelagic fish biomass of 25 % increased the biomass of functional groups presumed to be in competition with strongly migrating mesopelagic fishes, such as weak and non-migrating mesopelagic fishes. The static scenarios presented here lay the groundwork for interesting dynamic simulations with this modeling platform that will help determine how these impacts may affect the food web over time.

#### **44. Traces of oil in sea turtle feces**

de Souza Dias da Silva M.F., Zanardi-Lamardo E., Valcarcel Rojas L.A., de Oliveira Alves M.D., Chimendes da Silva Neves V., de Araújo M.E.  
(2024) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 200, art. no. 116088,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116088

**ABSTRACT:** In 2019, an oil spill hit the Brazilian Northeast coast causing impact to several ecosystems, including sea turtles' breeding and feeding areas. This study aimed to investigate whether sea turtles were impacted by this oil disaster, correlating the oil found inside feces with a sandy-oiled sample collected on the beach some days after the accident. The fecal samples were collected in the upper mid-littoral reef areas during three consecutive days in February 2020. The results suggested that sea turtles consumed algae contaminated by petroleum. Hydrocarbons composition of oil inside feces was similar to the sandy-oiled sample, suggesting they were the same. Lighter aliphatic and polycyclic aromatic compounds were missing, indicating both sandy-oiled and oil inside the feces had experienced significant evaporation prior to collection. Although the long-term damage is still unknown, the data are novel and relevant to support future research and alert authorities about the risks to sea turtles.

#### **45. Water column organic carbon composition as driver for water-sediment fluxes of hazardous pollutants in a coastal environment**

Nybom I., van Grimbergen J., Forsell M., Mustajärvi L., Martens J., Sobek A.  
(2024) *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, 465, art. no. 133393,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2023.133393

**ABSTRACT:** The environmental fate of hazardous hydrophobic pollutants in the marine environment is strongly influenced by organic carbon (OC) cycling. As an example, the seasonality in primary production impacts both water column OC quantity and quality, which may influence pollutant mass transport from the water column to the sediment. This study aims to better understand the role of water column OC variability for the fate of pollutants in a near-coastal area. We conducted an in situ sampling campaign in the coastal Baltic Proper during two seasons, summer and autumn. We used polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated

biphenyls (PCBs) as model compounds, as they represent a wide range in physicochemical properties and are ubiquitous in the environment. Freely dissolved, and OC-bound concentrations were studied in the water column and surface sediment. We found stronger sorption of pollutants to suspended particulate matter (SPM) during the summer compared to the autumn (average 0.6 and 0.9 log unit higher particle-water partition coefficients during summer for PAHs and PCBs). Our data suggest that stronger sorption mirrors a compositional change of the OC towards higher contribution of labile OC during the summer, characterized by two times higher fatty acid and 24% higher dicarboxylic acids in SPM during summer. High concentrations of OC in the water column during the autumn resulted in increased SPM-mediated sinking fluxes of pollutants. Our results suggest that future changes in primary production are prone to influence the bioavailability and mobility of pollutants in coastal zones, potentially affecting the residence time of these hazardous substances in the circulating marine environment.

### **46. Hydrocarbon-based parameters for the identification of oil contamination in an area with brown coal mining: Emphasis on pyrogenic index and alkylated PAHs**

Geršlová E., Vöröš D.

(2024) *Environmental Advances*, 15, art. no. 100484,.

DOI: 10.1016/j.envadv.2024.100484

**ABSTRACT:** The aim of the study was to propose hydrocarbon-based parameters that can be used to identify oil derived contamination in an area with a long-term load of coal mining industry. Aliphatic hydrocarbons and PAHs have been quantified for bottom sediments in the Bílina River, Czechia. Presented data demonstrate that all river sediments are highly contaminated with PAHs. The results showed that the distribution of PAHs was not possible to interpret by using the standard evaluation due to multisource long-term sedimentation of petroleum by-products, coal tars, and accidents of processing industry in the river system. The presence of petroleum derived hydrocarbons has been initially screened by the bulk parameter TEH and confirmed by the occurrence of steranes, hopanes and the unresolved complex mixture (UCM) in the chromatograms. The identification of the biomarkers 25-Norhopane and Gammacerane point out onsite microbial degradation of parent hydrocarbon compounds. The interpretation of the ratios Fl/Py, An/P, BaAn/Ch were not decisive to prove petrogenic origin of PAHs in the river sediments. However, using the combined evaluation of TEH together with the ratio of low molecular over high molecular weight PAHs, pyrogenic index and the presence of specific oil derived biomarkers allowed to prove the presence of petroleum contamination. Environmental implication: Due to oil spill accidents and intensive coal mining over the years, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been present in extreme amounts in bottom sediments of a tributary of the Elbe River, so called the Bílina River. Due to its hydrophobic and carcinogenic character, mutual understanding of the fate of alkylated PAHs homologues are usually overlooked within EPA PAHs 16 monitoring programme. This study pays attention to alkylated PAHs homologues and conventional diagnostic ratios when identifying oil derived contamination.

### **47. PAH residues and toxicity levels two years after an extensive oil spill on the northeast Brazilian coast**

Choueri R.B., de Souza Abessa D.M., de Carvalho M.U., Pazini B., Zanardi-Lamardo E., Rojas L.A.V., de Carvalho P.S.M., de Andrade N.V.M., de Souza Santos L.P., Ferraz M.A., Alves A.V., Castro Í.B.

(2024) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 200, art. no. 116063,

DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2024.116063

**ABSTRACT:** The most extensive oil spill ever recorded in tropical oceans occurred between August 2019 and March 2020, affecting approximately 3000 km of the Brazilian coast. This study assessed the chemical contamination and toxicity of sediments collected from affected reef areas during two sampling surveys conducted 17 and 24 months after the peak of oil slick inputs. Our results indicated that neither PAH levels nor measured toxicity showed a significant contribution from the spilled oil, with concentrations and biological effects indistinguishable from those in unaffected areas. Similarly, no differences were observed between seasons. Furthermore, there was no discernible relationship between sediment toxicity results and the measured PAH concentrations. Therefore, while biological responses indicated toxicity in most assessed areas, these responses are likely related to other local sources. This evidence suggests a natural oil attenuation process contributing to local environmental recovery. Nonetheless, further investigation is needed for other areas affected by oil spills.

### **48. Population biology of the reef crab *Eriphia gonagra* (Fabricius, 1781): Spatial variations and anthropogenic impacts in the Western Tropical Atlantic,**

Santana J.L., Rios A.S., Marinho R., Santos Calado T.C., Zanardi-Lamardo E., Souza-Filho J.F.

(2024) *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 71, art. no. 103407,

DOI: 10.1016/j.rsma.2024.103407

**ABSTRACT:** The red-finger rubble crab, *Eriphia gonagra*, plays a fundamental ecological role in maintaining reef cover and is an important component of the reef food web. This study aimed to compare population aspects of *E. gonagra* in four reef areas in

## RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Northeastern Brazil and investigated the effects of anthropogenic impacts upon the community, including trampling, sewage discharge, and one of the largest oil spills in Brazilian history, which occurred in August 2019. Over the course of a year, 222 individuals of *E. gonagra* were examined. The oil spill impact did not affect the studied aspects of the population, but results pointed out that tourism caused a decrease in the average carapace size and maturation in Ponta Verde and Carneiros compared to less frequented areas. While the current study found no apparent impact of the oil spill on the studied aspects of the population, it underscores the ongoing need for research into the sub-lethal effects of oil spills. Continued investigation is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of potential long-term impacts and to refine our knowledge in this area. This study highlights the importance of research into the effects of human activities on benthic crustacean species in reef environments to better understand their overall health.

### **49. The formation, reactivity, and fate of oxygen-containing organic compounds in petroleum-contaminated groundwaters: A state of the science review and future research directions**

Zito P., Sihota N., Mohler R.E., Podgorski D.C.  
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 918, art. no. 170619,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.170619

**ABSTRACT:** Hydrocarbon (HC) contamination in groundwater (GW) is a widespread environmental issue. Dissolved hydrocarbons in water are commonly utilized as an energy source by natural microbial communities, which can produce water soluble intermediate metabolite compounds, herein referred to as oxygen containing organic compounds (OCOCs), before achieving complete mineralization. This review aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of the literature focused on the state of the science for OCOCs detected and measured in GW samples collected from petroleum contaminated aquifers. In this review, we discuss and evaluate two hypotheses investigating OCOC formation, which are major points of contention in the freshwater oil spill community that need to be addressed. We reviewed over 150 articles compiling studies investigating OCOC formation and persistence to uncover knowledge gaps in the literature and studies that recommend quantitative and qualitative measurements of OCOCs in petroleum-contaminated aquifers. This review is essential because no consensus exists regarding specific compounds and related concerns. We highlight the knowledge gaps to progressing the discussion of hydrocarbon conversion products.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

*If you are interested in new technology you will find it useful to visit Technology Innovation News Survey at <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> and Tech Direct at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/archive/>*

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

### **HIGH WAVES, HIGH CLAIMS: NEW STUDY ON CONTAINER LOSSES**

In a comprehensive new study, we delve into the impact of weather on container stack collapses. Our findings show the impact of progressively increasing wave height, the quantified risk of high waves, and variance in weather exposure among different operators. Hopefully, the study sets the stage for a deeper dialogue within the industry about mitigating the impact of adverse weather on container safety.

To contribute to the industry understanding and to help prevent losses, we have studied all cases of stack collapse where Gard was involved as a P&I insurer. Hellenic Shipping News / [Read more](#)

### **SAFE BUNKERING WITH BIOFUELS: FIRST PART OF NEW STUDY SERIES LAUNCHED BY EMSA**

As the maritime industry moves towards greater sustainability, biofuels have emerged as a possible option for decarbonising the deep-sea sector of the global fleet. However, even though neat biofuel and biofuel blends are currently bunkered in shipping, the safety aspects of these fuels have not been widely studied or understood.

You can find this article in the February 2024 issue of the EMSA Newsletter.

[https://emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com\\_flexicontent&view=item&cid=2&id=5136:newsletter-february-2024&Itemid=2638](https://emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=item&cid=2&id=5136:newsletter-february-2024&Itemid=2638)

### **THE NEXT GENERATION OF PLANNING FOR OFFSHORE OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

In 2014, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) commissioned a study to inform an update of Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) regulations for offshore oil and gas facilities and pipelines at Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 254. The study, Oil Spill Response Equipment Capability Analysis, was conducted by a team led by Booz Allen Hamilton(Booz Allen), with support from RPS Group (formerly ASA Sciences), Environmental Research Consulting (ERC), and SEA Consulting. In close coordination with BSEE, the Booz Allen team reviewed eleven worst case discharge (WCD) scenarios in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and Pacific Outer

## INTERESTING ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Continental Shelf (OCS) Regions. The study, which involved literature reviews, oil spill modeling, and benchmarking against foreign and domestic regulatory regimes, concluded in February 2016, and highlighted many areas for improving the requirements for response capabilities in the OSRPs.

You can find this article at [final-paper-the-next-generation-of-planning-for-offshore-oil-spill-response.pdf \(bsee.gov\)](#)

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### T&T SALVAGE TO RECOVER SUNKEN OIL BARGE IN TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago has hired two remediation and salvage firms to help clean up an ongoing oil spill off Tobago and salvage the leaking barge, the country's Ministry of Energy said on Tuesday. gCapain / [Read more](#)

### FROM PACIFIC TOWING - 'RECOMPRESSION FACILITY IMPORTANT TO COMMERCIAL DIVERS IN PNG'

Papua New Guinea's diver recompression facility, strategically located in Port Moresby, has saved many lives and prevented numerous long-term disabilities since it opened in 2004. Although recreational divers have traditionally been the most frequently treated, the last five years have seen an increase in commercial diver patients. Given the surge in projects that will require commercial diving services over the next decade (e.g., new offshore LNG pipeline, mining tailings dams and offshore disposal, marine surveys, port redevelopments), it is reasonable to expect that the facility will continue to increasingly be required by commercial divers.

The Port Moresby recompression facility operates to international standards. Facility Coordinator of the PNG Dive Association (PNGDA), John Miller, asserts that the facility's treatment protocols are "world class" and in accord with the Divers Alert Network (DAN) – a respected international entity that provides emergency medical assistance to divers.

For additional information please contact: Neil Papenfus: (+675) 7200 1107; Read more at Linda Van Leeuwen: (+61) 407994890

Read more at <https://www.pngbusinessnews.com/articles/2024/2/recompression-facility-important-to-commercial-divers-in-png#:~:text=Papua%20New%20Guinea%E2%80%99s%20diver%20recompression%20facility%2C%20strategically%20located,have%20seen%20an%20increase%20in%20commercial%20diver%20patients.>

## TRAINING COURSES

*Training Course Providers – Please check entries below and advise editor on any necessary updates*

### USEFUL LINKS

- **INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM** [e-learning platform](#)
- **AUSTRALIA – AMOSC** - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA** - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- **CHINA** - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- **EUROPE – EMSA** - <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - [https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023\\_EN.pdf](https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf)
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD.** - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.** - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – AMBIPAR GROUP** <https://ambipar.com/uk/training/>
- **UK – NCEC HAZMAT ACADEMY** – [More info](#)
- **USA – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL** <https://www.tamucc.edu/research/ns/cs/>
- **USA – MPC, DETROIT** - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>
- **USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS** - [https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp)
- **CANADA - CONTAMINATED SITES HEALTH & SAFETY REFRESHER (8-HOUR HAZWOPER) – FROM ECONEXT – [MORE INFO](#)**
- **ONLINE - LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT. Starts on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024** - <https://email.informaconnect.com/q/12ErXbQNGaNK08lQrkPeg62v/wv>

Members who would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS CLICK ON [HTTPS://SPILLCONTROL.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/)

To see ALL of the posted events you will need to click on “LOAD MORE” at the foot of each opened “upcoming events” page. Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed. Your Editor does his best to keep the listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans. Please advise the Editor if any of the entries require correction or updating. If you are holding an event you would like to be featured here, please send details to [John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

The listings below give only very basic details – To get access to all information visit <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/>

#### MARCH & APRIL 2024

- WEBINAR – ALGA – “1-4 Dioxane, A Water Contaminant of Emerging Concern, 7 March 2024, 12.00 – 1.00 pm AEDT
- PORTUGAL – Economist – “11th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo”, Lisbon, 11-13 March 2024
- USA – Conference & Exhibition – Clean Waterways – April 9-11, Cincinnati, Ohio
- TUNISIA – MOIG TRAINING COURSE – IMO Level 3, 22-25 April 2024, South Hammamet
- UK – IOPC Funds Meeting of the Governing Bodies, IMO London. 29 April to 2 May

#### MAY 2024 Onwards

- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- USA – AHMP – EHS HAZMAT SUMMIT, 14-17 July, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
- CANADA – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Montreal, 5-6 August 2024
- GERMANY – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27, 2024
- UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- USA – Elastec River Spill Workshop, Carmi, Indiana, 8-10 October 2024
- UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK

#### SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- IOPC Funds has released a calendar of its upcoming events – to view, click on <https://iopcfunds.org/news-events/events/>
- Econext has released a programme of upcoming courses and webinars. This can be viewed at [https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc\\_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc\\_eid=6a430f153](https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc_eid=6a430f153)
- Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)
- UK & Ireland Spill Association Alternative Marine Fuels and their Implications For Spill Response Webinar is [available to watch on YouTube](#). All six of UK & Ireland Spill Association’s Webinar Series on the Wakashio Spill are also available to watch. [More info](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS 2024 – REGISTRATION OPEN - CLICK ON LINKS BELOW

Still thinking about registering for the upcoming CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place April 9-11 in Cincinnati? We could list all the reasons this is a must-attend event for anyone involved in incident prevention and response in the inland environment, but we will let your peers do the talking! [Read more](#)

The exhibit hall at this year’s CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, April 9-11 in Cincinnati, will feature an array of companies showcasing the latest technologies, services, and equipment for incident prevention and response in the inland environment. You will find consulting services, incident management services, new technology for response, equipment for inland response, GIS products, toxicology, remediation, oil spill removal organizations, and containment boom manufacturers... just to name a few! [READ MORE](#)

[CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), April 9-11 in Cincinnati, OH. We are accepting exhibit/ sponsorship applications and registration is open.

#### [DISCOUNTS](#)    [PRELIMINARY AGENDA](#)

Registration has officially opened for the 2024 CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH, April 9-11.

[Registration information](#), April 9-11, 2024, Cincinnati, OH – “Incident Prevention & Response for Inland Regions & Waterways”

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

[View the website](#) The CLEAN WATERWAYS program is developed by a government/industry-based committee of approximately 50 professionals, and the committee is looking for leaders to help shape the conference.

All abstracts submitted are reviewed for content and relevance by the committee and are selected by consensus

### USA: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR IOSC 2024

[International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024

Click on links for updated info – [EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM](#) [EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE PRIME VISIBILITY AND IMPACT](#) [COMPLETE PROGRAM](#) [FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

**New Paper Announced – “Recognize the Next Generation of Spill Response Management”** [No link provided but please see article on [Page](#)

To qualify for a discounted registration rate, you MUST reserve a room at an [IOSC Hosted Hotel](#). Your room must be booked by the Hosted Hotel cutoff date to receive the discounted rate. Please note that each hotel has their own cutoff date. IOSC will perform an audit on the housing block on April 15. Those that have not booked within the block by the respective hotel cutoff date will have their registration rate changed to reflect the difference.

Registration has officially opened for the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), May 13-16, 2024 at the New Orleans Convention Center in New Orleans, LA USA.

In order to make it as easy as possible for you to join nearly 2,000 members of the international oil spill response community, IOSC has put together a Justification Toolkit to help you illustrate the value of attending this conference. Use the tools in this kit to explain to your supervisor how attending IOSC will be a smart investment in both your personal career growth and the growth of your organization. [Download the Justification Kit](#)

Meet Dr. Leonard Marcus, IOSC 2024 Keynote Speaker. Join us, May 13 - 16, 2024 in New Orleans, LA for the 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) and be inspired by our opening keynote speaker, Dr. Leonard Marcus. [Read about Dr. Marcus](#)

[Why are Sponsorships at IOSC So Valuable?](#) Click to read more

**IOSC** provides a vital forum for professionals from the international response community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to come together to tackle the greatest challenges facing us with sound science, practical innovation, social engineering and imagination.

Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to join over 1,500 attendees from over 50 countries, representing government agencies, contractors, researchers, industry, and other stakeholders as they exchange ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world.

**Learn More about IOSC 2024** Be sure to follow IOSC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IOSC2024. Please contact [registration@iosc.org](mailto:registration@iosc.org) for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: [exhibits@iosc.org](mailto:exhibits@iosc.org)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

**November 18-20, 2024** George R. Brown Convention Center | Houston, TX

Registration for the 2024 event will open in April and Exhibit and Sponsorships are already available! Contact Renie Mayfield at 720-289-7008 or [rmayfield@accessintel.com](mailto:rmayfield@accessintel.com) to discuss how you can make an impact on buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies and regulatory agencies with an Exhibit space or Sponsorship. [More info](#)

Do you have real-world solutions for evolving environmental emergencies? Don't miss your chance to be heard at this year's CLEAN GULF Conference! Submit your abstract for review and your chance to take the stage this November at CLEAN GULF. Abstracts are due by **March 1, 2024**. [More info about submitting abstracts](#).

Time is Running Out for Your Chance to Speak at CLEAN GULF 2024! Do you have real-world solutions or case studies you would like to present to your peers in the response community? This is your chance to be heard at this year's CLEAN GULF Conference! Submit your abstract for review by **March 1st** for your chance to take the stage this November at CLEAN GULF. [READ MORE](#)

### INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, NEW DELHI, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the backdrop of the recent oil spill incident, caused during cyclone Michaung in Chennai's Ennore Creek, it is with a sense of urgency and shared responsibility that we announce that the 7th edition of Oil Spill India (OSI 2024), the region's flagship conference & exhibition on the Oil Spill Prevention, Planning, Preparedness, Response & Restoration industry, will be organised during 11th & 12th September 2024 at Hotel JW Marriott, Aerocity, New Delhi, India. [View the OSI 2024 website](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

### EUROPE – INTERSPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – 8-10 APRIL 2025 – ExCeL, LONDON

This internationally respected triennial event (which connects global stakeholders involved in marine oil spill research, prevention, preparedness, response and restoration) will return on 8-10 April 2025 at ExCeL London. <https://www.interspill.org/2025/>

## JOB VACANCIES

### IMO – VACANCY FOR TECHNICAL OFFICER

**Deadline for Applications 29/02/2024**

Contract Information: Fixed-term for two years (first year is probationary) with the possibility of further extension, subject to satisfactory performance.

Salary - US\$ 77,326 net per annum, plus post adjustment (currently US\$ 59,155). Salary is free of income tax in the United Kingdom.

Purpose of the Post - The Technical Officer will serve as the institutional focal point for all policy and operational matters related to oil/HNS pollution preparedness and response (OPRC/HNS). In this capacity, the Technical Officer will be responsible for oversight and management of joint oil pollution preparedness projects with the petroleum industry (GI), to implement an array of technical capacity building activities worldwide, and to provide concrete technical guidance and assistance in the event of major pollution incidents.

This vacancy is open to all qualified candidates. IMO seeks to increase the number of women at senior levels and, therefore, qualified women are particularly encouraged to apply. IMO will make every effort to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities.

IMO / [View Main Duties & Responsibilities, Required Competencies, and other requirements](#)

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

This is a subscription service. <https://www.tender247.com/keyword/oil+spill+tenders+global>

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

US Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> US Federal Contract Opportunities are posted at <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities> European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter at - <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html>

ISCO Members can post requests for submission of invitations to tender for supplies / services in this section.

## LINKS FOR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### TO VIEW LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS PLEASE CLICK ON

<https://spillcontrol.org/2021/10/19/links-for-downloading-and-reading-other-publications/>

As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost. This page is managed by Mike Watson [mike@mwadigital.com](mailto:mike@mwadigital.com)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### EMSA NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2024

In the February edition of the EMSA newsletter we have all the latest on the EMTER stakeholder consultation meeting plus details on the first part of a new study on safe bunkering with biofuels. There's more information on the Greening Award Initiative, for authorities exercising coast guard functions across the EU, including how to apply! And we find out about the visit of a delegation from the European Economic and Social Committee to EMSA. [Download the EMSA February 2024 Newsletter](#)

### OILED SHORELINE CLEAN-UP

This guide to "Oiled shoreline clean-up" summarizes Cedre's knowledge acquired through various studies and experiments carried out since its creation, as well as during accidents in France and abroad. CEDRE / [Read more](#)



# Marine Pollution Control Worldwide Problem Solvers Since 1968

## PLAN

Tactical Response Planning

## PROTECT

Monitoring and  
Plan Improvement

## PREPARE

Training, Drills and Exercises

## RESPOND

On Land and Sea

**Marine Pollution Control**  
+1 (313) 849-2333 - 24/hour  
[www.MarinePollutionControl.com](http://www.MarinePollutionControl.com)



**MPC IS OSRO #003**

[CLICK ON THE ABOVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

## INCIDENT REPORTS

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO OIL SPILL (CONTINUED)

- February 18 - UNC wants answers: Come clean on energy sector, Tobago oil spill. T&T Newsday / [Read more](#)
- February 19 - A Unified Response to an Environmental Crisis. BRN Breaking / [Read more](#)
- February 20 - T&T Salvage to Recover Sunken Oil Barge in Tobago. gCaptain / [Read more](#)
- February 20 - Disaster Recovery Teams Join as Mysteries Grow in Tobago Oil Spill. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)
- February 20 - Trinidad hires foreign experts to help contain oil spill and remove capsized barge. ABC News / [Read more](#)
- February 21 - 'Lacklustre' response on oil spill drawing int'l attention. TT Loop News / [Read more](#)
- February 22 - The Ministry of Energy & Energy Industries Engages With Oil Spill Removal The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)
- February 23 - Environmentalist: Revise National Oil Spill Contingency Plan T&T Newsday / [Read more](#)

### USA: COLORADO - TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES MASSIVE DIESEL SPILL

February 19 - In the early hours of February 7, a cargo train experienced a locomotive derailment in northern Colorado, resulting in the spillage of hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel. The incident occurred on the Great Western Railway, where the locomotive veered off the tracks at a switch point just before 1 a.m. Fortunately, despite the derailment, the locomotive did not overturn; however, a fuel tank sustained punctures during the mishap. Efforts were swiftly undertaken to contain the spill, and fortunately, it was effectively confined, preventing any contamination of nearby water bodies. Chemanalyst / [Read more](#)

### USA: FLORIDA - AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE OIL SPILL IN FORT LAUDERDALE'S NEW RIVER

February 19 - "This morning, at approximately 10:58 am, FLPD's Marine Unit located what appeared to be fuel in the water near the 500 block of E Las Olas Blvd.," Fort Lauderdale police Detective Ali Adamson said in an email to Local 10 News. "Officers were able to follow the fuel along the New River however, due to the outgoing tide, they were unable to determine the source of the spill." Local 10 / [Read more](#)

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

### BELGIUM: LARGE OIL SPILL ON THE SCHELDT RIVER CAUSES BAD SMELL IN ANTWERP CITY CENTRE

February 22 - The Scheldt River in Antwerp has been polluted by a large oil slick which is causing severe odour nuisance in the historic centre on Thursday morning. The origin of the pollution is not yet known. The Brussels Times / [Read more](#)

### RED SEA: HOUTHİ ATTACK CAUSED LARGE OIL SPILL, RISK FOR WORSE ENVIRONMENTAL 'DISASTER'

**February 24** - "The unprovoked and reckless attack by Iran-backed Houthi terrorists caused significant damage to the ship, which caused an **18-mile oil slick**," CENTCOM announced in its statement. I24 News / [Read more](#)

**February 23** - Late on Friday, CENTCOM released an aerial image showing the Rubymar and the massive oil slick forming behind the 32,200 dwt bulker registered in Belize. The report says it has caused a massive oil slick and CENTCOM worries that its cargo of fertilizer could also leak into the Red Sea adding to the environmental consequences for the region from the Houthis' actions. Earlier in the week, BBC published the first confirmed photos of the vessel sitting low at the stern but afloat. Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

**February 18** - Houthi Militants Deploy a Drone Sub for the First Time. Over the weekend, U.S. forces identified and destroyed a new class of weaponry in Yemen: a drone submersible, known in the trade as an unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV). CENTCOM did not provide further details on the design or purpose of the drone sub, but described it as the first of its kind since the latest round of Houthi attacks began. The command described it as an "imminent threat" to U.S. warships and international shipping. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## ISCO – SUBMISSION OF PAPERS TO IMO MEPC AND PPR MEETINGS

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, IMO is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented. ISCO holds Consultative Status at IMO, fields representatives at relevant meetings, contributes to Working Groups and has submitted meeting papers on matters relevant to the objectives of our organisation. However it has been some time since ISCO submitted a paper to delegations at relevant meetings.

**Decanting of Settled-out water** - An example, for MEPC consideration ISCO presented the case for a minor change MARPOL regulations to make it easier to discharge settled-out water from the tanks of oil spill skimming vessels. The recommended change would have enhanced the practical capability of skimming vessels to recover larger amounts of oil and would also have protected masters of skimming vessels from prosecution in the event that a dispensation for decanting settled-out water had not been subject to prior agreement before the response operation. The paper also included recommended proper safeguards that would have to be in place and complied with Net Environment Benefit principles. In the middle of an oil spill you can't easily get a quick authorisation for decantation.

Unfortunately this initiative was immediately shot down by a governmental delegation without any discussion. (Was it because the initiative was made by a NGO and not by a Government Delegation?)

Shortly afterwards the author was privately approached by a number of delegates. They said the proposal had merit and recommended that ISCO should try again. However, the author was quite disheartened by the way the paper was so summarily dismissed and there was never any follow through.

**The option for ISCO to resubmit a paper remains open TO BE CONTINUED**

---

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and your acceptance of ISCO's Data Protection and Privacy Policy.

---